

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to made editorial changes and correct inadvertent errors. Claim 35 has been added based on, e.g., the disclosure at page 9, line 25 to page 10, line 13 and in Figs. 1 and 2 in the present application. Fig. 1 has been amended to correct an inadvertent error in which reference numeral 16 was used in dope preparing equipment 15 (reference number 15 was located between first filtering apparatus 23 and heating apparatus 27), and it was also used for the casting equipment (i.e., casting equipment 16, as set forth on the bottom of page 7 in the present application); Fig. 1 has been corrected to show reference numeral 16 only in connection with the casting equipment, as set forth on the bottom of page 7 in the present application.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection

On page 2 of the office Action, in paragraph 5, claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by either Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,993,530) or Fukuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,637,359).

In response, Applicant submits that Tanaka et al. (US 5,993,530) is related to an aqueous dispersion of a biodegradable resin composition, but there is only a simple description of the production method thereof in the specification (column 10, lines 4-20). Also, Applicant submits that Fukuchi et al. (US 5,637,359) discloses a production method for a plastic substrate for a liquid crystal display device (column 5, line 66-column 6, line 11). However, since neither of the

references discloses "a heater disposed along the back side of the substrate" or "condensing a solvent with a condensing device disposed so as to closely confront to the film on the substrate" as recited in claim 1 of the present application, Applicant submits that the cited art does not anticipate (or render obvious) the present invention. If the Examiner intends to maintain this rejection, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate clearly where the references teach or suggest the above features regarding the heater and the condensing device of the present invention.

With respect to new claim 35, Applicant submits that it is not anticipated by (or obvious over the cited art) for the following reasons.

Regarding Tanaka, Applicant submits initially that this reference neither teaches nor suggests peeling the film from the substrate and then drying the film as in the present invention.

Indeed, claim 45 of Tanaka as cited by the Examiner recites applying its composition onto the surface of a hard substrate followed by curing it to form a protective film thereon. Since the film formed on the substrate is a protective film, Applicants submit that one would not peel the film from the substrate and dry it as in the present invention, since it would no longer be protecting the substrate.

Thus, Applicants submit that Tanaka teaches away from the invention as recited in claim 35.

Moreover, as indicated above, Applicant submits that Tanaka as cited by the Examiner neither teaches nor suggests heating the substrate with the use of a heater

disposed along a back surface of the substrate, nor does it teach or suggest condensing a solvent evaporated from the film with a condensing device disposed so as to closely confront the film on the substrate to thereby recover the solvent.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Tanaka neither teaches nor suggests the present invention.

As to Fukuchi, Applicant submits initially that this reference neither teaches nor suggests peeling the film from the substrate and then drying the film as in new claim 35.

Indeed, claim 8 of Fukuchi as cited by the Examiner recites sintering the substrate (which has the polymer thereon), so there would not be any need to subsequently dry the film, if the film is even removed from the substrate at all.

Moreover, Applicant submits that the film does not even appear to be removed from the substrate at all, as can be seen from claim 7 in Fukuchi (wherein the pair of substrates which are sintered to remove the solvent appear to be the pair of substrates in the liquid crystal display device).

Moreover, as indicated above, Applicant submits that Fukuchi as cited by the Examiner neither teaches nor suggests heating the substrate with the use of a heater disposed along a back surface of the substrate, nor does it teach or suggest condensing a solvent evaporated from the film with a condensing device disposed so as to closely confront the film on the substrate to thereby recover the solvent.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Fukuchi neither teaches nor suggests the invention of new claim 35.

Thus, Applicants submit that the cited art does not anticipate (or render obvious) the present invention, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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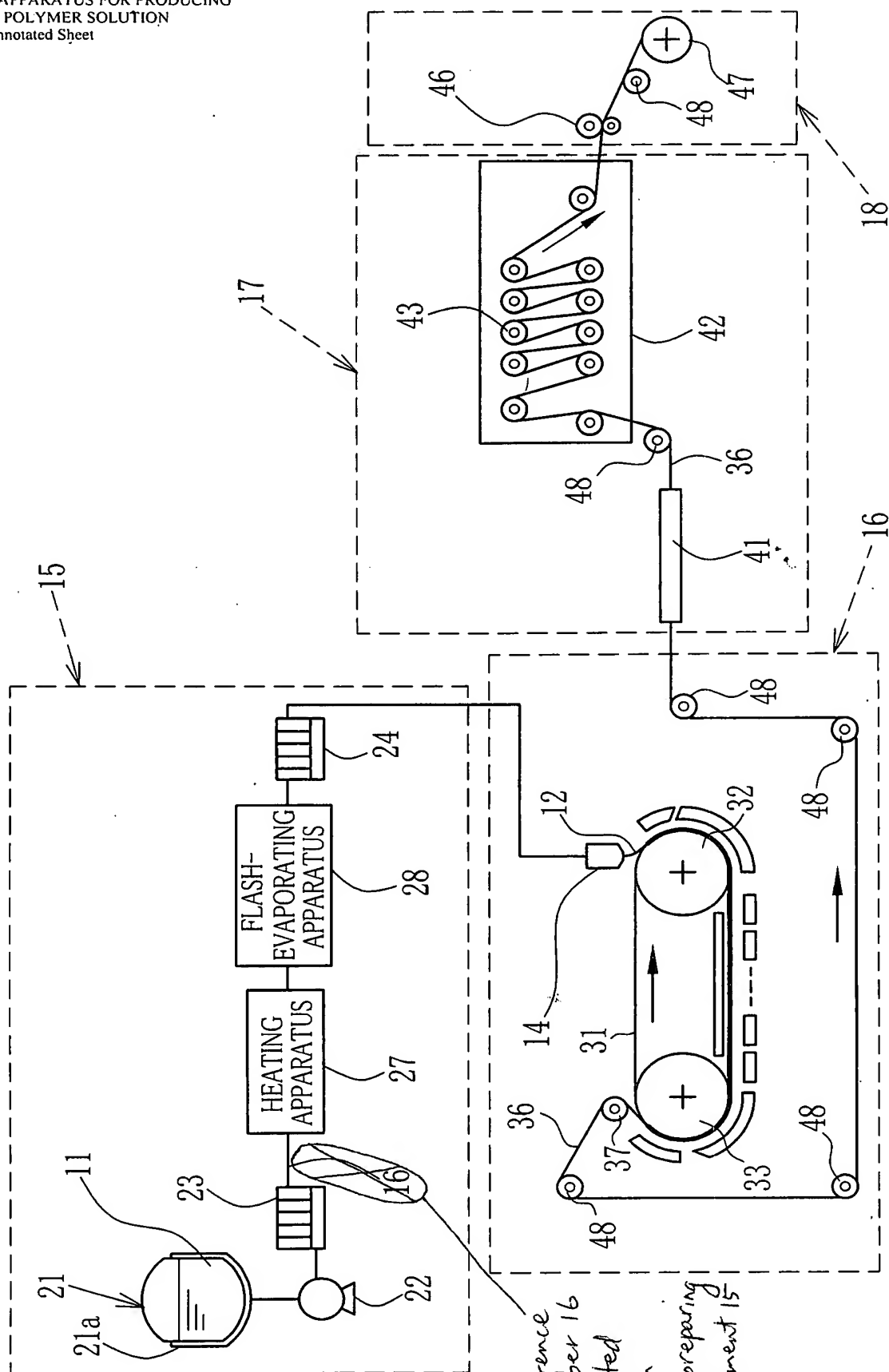
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CUSTOMER NUMBER


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FIG. 1



reference
 number 16
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 from
 dope preparing
 equipment 15

